

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

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- I. TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION. Volume II. Edited by J. EWING MEARS, M.D., Recorder of the Association. Philadelphia. 1885.
- II. TRANSACTIONS OF THE NEW YORK STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1884. Volume I. Edited for the Association by AUSTIN FLINT, JR., M.D. New York. 1885.

I. This volume contains the papers read before the American Surgical Association, at its meeting held in Washington from April 30 to May 3, 1884. The first of these papers is the contribution of Prof. S. D. Gross on Wounds of the Intestines, a paper which has already been noticed in the *Annus Chirurgicus* of the January number of the ANNALS OF SURGERY. The contributions of Professor Briggs on the Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy, of Professor Gunn on Manipulation in the Reduction of Hip and Shoulder Dislocations, and of Dr. Senn on Experimental Researches in Cicatrization of Blood-vessels after Ligation, have also already received due mention in this journal. These, however, though among the most important papers, form only a small fraction of the whole number of valuable contributions that compose this volume. If the increase in the number and quality of the contributions offered at its meetings is an index of the progress of a society, the American Surgical Association may be congratulated upon the indication which this present volume gives of its growth. Immediately following the contribution of Prof. S. D. Gross are two papers which deal with some phases of the question of anæsthesia. The first is by Dr. B. A. Watson, of Jersey City, and is entitled, "An Experimental Study of Anæsthetics." The aim of the author is to show, by experiments on rabbits and dogs, the physiological action and relative safety of chloroform, ether, bromide of ethyl and various mixtures of these drugs. His conclusions are that sulphuric ether is decidedly the safest anæsthetic yet employed in general surgical practice; that a mixture of alcohol, chloroform and ether is radically wrong, and practically bad, since it is much more dangerous than ether. As for bromide of ethyl, he strongly asserts that neither alone nor in mixture should this drug ever be employed for producing anæsthesia, especially where it is necessary to prolong the state.

The second paper is by Dr. D. W. Cheever, of Boston, and is en-

titled: "Some of the Dangers and Disadvantages of Anæsthesia." It is limited to a concise statement of the well-known possible dangers and troubles that often complicate attempts at inducing anæsthesia by ether. It contains no new suggestions.

Next follow a series of six papers upon different points in the surgery of the skull or brain. Dr. P. S. Conner, of Cincinnati, reports two cases of traumatic cephal-hydrocele, with a tabulated resumé of cases collected from medical literature. Drs. Fenger and Lee, of Chicago, report a case in which a cerebral abscess, following a penetrating pistol shot wound of the skull, was successfully treated by trephining, exploratory puncture and drainage. They accompany the report with a systematic discussion of points involved in such cases.

Dr. Nancrede, of Philadelphia, also reports a case of cerebral abscess following a penetrating wound of the skull over the left middle parietal lobe, by a knife blade, which, being broken off, was left for a time *in situ* before it was extracted. Symptoms of brain pressure having become threatening, trephining was done, an aspirator needle plunged into the brain in the direction of the supposed abscess, at first fruitlessly, but after a few moments with the escape, through the puncture left by the withdrawal of the needle, of a drop of pus. A free-incision then resulted in the evacuation of from one to two ounces of pus. Patient was then already apparently dead, but was resuscitated after prolonged efforts and lived for four days. Post-mortem showed greater part of the upper portion of left hemisphere destroyed by the abscess. In the discussion which followed other interesting cases of brain abscess were reported.

Genito-urinary surgery is represented by three short papers.

Two of the most interesting contributions in the volume deal with railroad injuries. One by Dr. Thompson, of Paducah, is limited to injuries of the hand; the second, by Dr. McCann, of Pittsburg, includes all the extremities. This is a field of observation in which the vast extent of the railway systems of the United States affords unusual opportunities for surgical improvement. The American Surgical Association could do no better thing than to organize a system by which the experience of American railway surgeons could be gathered, digested and published.

It is impracticable to mention separately all the contributions which are contained in this volume. They number twenty-six in all, from as many different Fellows, who represent every part of the United States, except the Pacific Coast. This volume makes a book of over 500 pages. It is graced by an excellent photo-type of the lamented Professor S. D. Gross, to whose efforts the Association owes its birth, and

whose latest contribution to surgical literature forms the first paper in the volume.

II. This volume contains the record of the work of the New York Medical Association at its first session after its organization, held in New York City in November, 1884. It is a large and handsome octavo, of 654 pages, including an index. It is edited by Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., and shows the signs of the oversight of a practiced book-maker, in the fullness of all the details required to make such a book perfect. A considerable proportion of the contributions are of a surgical nature, mostly quite brief, the greater number being reports of cases, with reflections suggested by the same. More elaborate are two papers on Transfusion, one by Dr. E. M. Moore, of Rochester, and one by Dr. J. C. Hutchison, of Brooklyn. The chief idea of the first writer is to show the importance of reducing to a minimum the time required for the complete operation of drawing from the vein of the donor the blood, and injecting it into the vein of the recipient. He concludes that fresh blood in but small quantity should be used, and for facilitating the operation he describes a new apparatus. In the second paper a review of recent literature of the subject of transfusion is given, the writer accepting the conclusions that the important element in transfusion is the restoration of fluid to the vascular system, increasing vascular tension and causing energetic contractions of the heart; and that intra-venous injection of saline solutions in appropriate cases is a more simple and is a safer operation than transfusion of blood, so that, if further experience should confirm the favorable results of such injections, the operation should be held in high esteem as an important therapeutic agent. The writer gives also a description of an apparatus for the ready administration of these injections. Two papers of a statistical nature, one on Double Synchronous Amputations, by Dr. Lynde, of Buffalo, and one on Dislocation of the Hip, based upon 223 cases occurring in New York State, deserve mention. Lastly a paper by Dr. Dennis, of New York City, on the Relations between Tuberculous Joint Diseases and General Tuberculosis, should be noted. This volume of Transactions indicates an unusual activity and earnestness on the part of the members of the Society, which awakens an expectation of much future valuable work. L. S. PILCHER.

UNTERSUCHUNG DER WEIBLICHEN GENITALIEN UND ALLGEMEINE GYNÄKOLOGISCHE THERAPIE. Von Dr. R. CHROBAK, Professor an der Universität Wien. mit 104 Holzschnitten. Stuttgart: Verlag von Ferdinand Enke. 1885. Pp. VIII-278.

This volume, No. 54 of Billroth and Luecke's "Deutsche Chirurgie,"